



ILLINOIS STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

# LAW-RELATED EDUCATION

*The newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's Committee on Law-Related Education*

*The Illinois State Bar Association's Law-Related Education Newsletter is provided free of charge on a quarterly basis during the school year. We are dedicated to promoting law-related education resources and discussion topics appropriate for use in classroom or community settings. If you do NOT wish to receive this complimentary newsletter, please reply and indicate in the message line that you wish to be removed from our mailing list. Statements, expressions of opinion or comments appearing herein are those of the editors or contributors, and not necessarily those of the Association or the Committee.*

## Chair's gratitude

*By Judge Mike Chmiel*

Once again, this publication comes to you through the work of the Standing Committee on Law Related Education for the Public of the Illinois State Bar Association ("LRE"). LRE has continued in its endeavors to encourage and enhance opportunities for civics education throughout the State of Illinois, through volunteer attorneys and judges who stand ready, willing, and able to speak to students, through publications, and through the High School Mock Trial Invitational of the ISBA. Gratitude is again stated for all who have participated! More can always be done, but things continue to bode well for the

future of the State through the interest and effort of those who focus on civics.

As we approach the end of the 2014-15 fiscal year of the ISBA, gratitude is specifically stated for Attorney Richard Felice of Wheaton, who as the President of the ISBA, elevated civics education for the ISBA as one of his initiatives. Through his guidance and hard work, along with that of Justice Michael Hyman of Chicago, the ISBA was able to join forces with the Illinois Judges Association to form the joint Bringing the Courtroom to

*Continued on page 2*

## Civics in our schools (Homes and communities) 2015

*By Sandra Lin Sweeney, Attorney at Law*

I was honored to be a part of the High School Mock Trials for 2015 and was thoroughly amazed at the talent of the students I listened to. After the mock trials, I began to ponder if any of these young people would then go on to become a part of our political culture, if the process of arguing a position would propel their deeper thinking of politics. This thought then pushed my conscience to thinking about our civics education in school, what is it and how is it perceived by young minds.

I recalled when I was in school, many moons ago, civics education was something seen as having to endure and get through, a require-

ment, let's say. The educator would stand at the front of the class, speak at the class and assign reading upon which the students would be tested. It was yawnable at best. It did not engage the student citizenry. Sadly enough, not many of my student colleagues ever engaged in any form of politics or self-governing participation, during their adulthoods. In fact, there is a lot of apathy and distrust in politics and politicians, in my generation. Most sadly, I see this apathy continuing with our youth.

So my thoughts then traveled to what would

*Continued on page 3*

## INSIDE

**Chair's gratitude..... 1**

**Civics in our schools (Homes and communities) 2015..... 1**

**2015 ISBA High School Mock Trial Invitational .... 4**

**Model Illinois Government ..... 4**

**Check out these two ABA Web sites for good ideas to improve your programs ..... 4**

**800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, the great charter of liberty ..... 5**

**Jesse Paul Padilla—Someone you should know ..... 5**

**Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum celebrates 150th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination, the end of the Civil War and the 10-year anniversary of our museum ..... 6**

## Chair's gratitude

*Continued from page 1*

the Classroom ("BCC") Committee. Attorney Felice engages in the private practice of law, but also volunteers countless hours to develop such programs. Similarly, Justice Hyman, who sits on the Appellate Court of Illinois for the First District, serves as the President of the IJA and also volunteers countless hours.

The BCC Program was developed by the IJA over the last few years, to provide an interactive discussion with Illinois students about the court system in Illinois and the handling of a hypothetical case. In Chicago this past October, for the first time, attorneys were trained to join judges who were previously trained to facilitate the discussion at schools through a substantive PowerPoint presentation. Now, about 200 judges and attorneys are available to make the presentation at schools throughout Illinois. Educators are encouraged to contact the BCC Program by emailing Kathy Hosty at [khosty@ija.org](mailto:khosty@ija.org) or Kim Furr at [kfurr@isba.org](mailto:kfurr@isba.org). Upon request, the BCC Committee will coordinate a judge and an attorney to make the presentation free of any charge.

LRE has also continued to offer its Lawyers in Classrooms Program through which more than 160 attorneys and judges located throughout Illinois, make themselves available to talk on a dozen different topics free of charge. The lists of volunteer presenters and topics is available through [isba.org/teachers](http://isba.org/teachers).

In March, LRE coordinated the 33rd Annual High School Mock Trial Invitational. More than 400 students participated as lawyers and witnesses in a hypothetical case (which was based on a real-life story). Then, in April, the Board of Governors of the ISBA voted to continue with the Invitational into the foreseeable future. Planning has already begun for the 34th! (Thanks to Attorney Sarah Taylor of Carbondale for again chairing the Mock Trial Subcommittee for LRE, the Mock Trial Subcommittee (Judge Pablo Eves, Stephen Iden, Rocky Martinez, Kateah McMasters, Stan Wasser, and Zee Williams), Third Year Law Student Aleksandra Ostojic of the University of Illinois who served as Administrator for the Invitational, and the University of Illinois Mock Trial Team.

Throughout the year, LRE also worked to produce four newsletters and update its Web site. These items are used throughout the State by attorneys and educators alike.

Thanks go to Retired Administrative Law Judge Ed Schoenbaum of Springfield for stepping in to get our newsletters out, and to LRE's Vice (and Incoming) Chair Rocky Martinez for working to improve LRE's presence on the web.

As we look to the upcoming year, things look great with many opportunities for success. For starters, LRE plans to continue to provide and improve each of its offerings. LRE also plans to expand its civic education offerings into the grown-up world with a new program which is tentatively being called Bringing the Courtroom to the Boardroom. LRE looks forward to working with incoming ISBA President Umberto Davi of Western Springs and his administration on this anticipated venture into the world of adult education.

As the second year of my one-year term comes to a close, let me again thank all who have volunteered time to talk to a student or a class, to write an article, to judge or evaluate a mock trial, or to focus some level of

attention on civics. (As a friend from Crystal Lake would say, if we all do a little, some won't have to do a lot!) Further, let me extend special thanks to ISBA Executive Director Bob Craghead, ISBA General Counsel Charlie Northrup, and LRE Staff Liaison Kim Furr. Each does a great job keeping us between the ditches of an often bumpy road. Through their efforts, we have been able to focus on civics and with great hopes and expectations for the future.

Educators are well-advised to explore and utilize various free resources which are available through the websites of the ISBA ([www.isba.org](http://www.isba.org)), the Supreme Court of Illinois ([www.state.il.us/court](http://www.state.il.us/court)), and the Illinois Judges Association ([www.ija.org](http://www.ija.org)).

We are all working to make our State a better place through education. To such end, we welcome questions, comments, suggestions, and invitations to make presentations. Otherwise, thanks and best wishes for a great Summer! ■

## ***FREE to ISBA members***

### **Your research isn't complete until you've searched ISBA section newsletters**

Fourteen years' worth of articles, fully indexed and full-text searchable...and counting.



**The ISBA's online newsletter index organizes all issues published since 1999 by subject, title and author.**

More than a decade's worth of lawyer-written articles analyzing important Illinois caselaw and statutory developments as they happen.

**[WWW.ISBA.ORG/PUBLICATIONS/SECTIONNEWSLETTERS](http://WWW.ISBA.ORG/PUBLICATIONS/SECTIONNEWSLETTERS)**

## Civics in our schools (Homes and communities) 2015

*Continued from page 1*

help to engage students not only in their learning of "civics" but also to be good citizens, once their formal civics education has ended. I then began to realize that civics education is a lifelong, on-going process, which if implemented properly should take place during our entire conscience existence. That our "civics" education is begun from the moment we are born until the day we die, being affected by our parents, our schools and the communities we live in.

We are affected from birth by our parents' beliefs in politics, religion and level of activity in politics they engage in. We are affected during our years of schooling by our educators, with how well do our educators engage and challenge us in the political process, or do they only speak at us. After our own formal education process has ended we are then affected by our own activity level in the democratic process. How little or how much we ourselves engage in affecting decisions, or holding them accountable, of our law makers.

I do not believe merely voting, or writing letters to the editor is sufficient to be engaged and end political apathy. So if the formal type of educational training is not engaging our youth citizenry then what would?

I believe that hands on experiences and fruitful debate is what will engage our young people. It will remove apathy and help our youth to understand that they must be engaged in the political process to control the outcome of politics and how those politics will affect their futures. We must as an adult society instill in our "children" that they must be involved to have our culture continue as a "democracy." We as parents, educators and the public must get our youth involved in attending and participating in local political meetings; fund drives; gathering signatures for local, state and national candidates, helping with candidates elections; participating in political clubs and organizations; and maybe engaging in occupations that can have an impact politically.

To engage our youth now will insure that there will be people in the future who will have the confidence to speak out and challenge mediocrity and look to new innovative ways to approach problems and correct

them. We need new thinking, we need new blood within our political system. To do that we must engage those who will come after us to take over those positions we now hold. So civics teachers know that you have an incredible amount of responsibility and that is to be a prong in developing our future political and decision makers of our country, engage them in new ways, not just by teaching rote text, but by challenging their thinking, their questioning of decisions by law makers, by letting our youth know they have a voice and they can use it to challenge current ways of thinking.

This is "democracy." ■

A bill making civics class a requirement for high school graduation in Illinois passed a state Senate committee on May 12.

Sen. Tom Cullerton, D-Villa Park, sponsor of **House Bill 4025**, passed the House 81-29 in April. He said the bill would ensure students are engaged in the political process, opponents say it is another unfunded mandate on schools that cannot afford to offer the course.

High school students must take at least two years of social studies to graduate. This bill would require at least one semester be a civics class. He sponsored the bill because he saw a growing trend of people not getting involved in government.

"While it serves a purpose, Facebook shouldn't be the number one means of getting involved in your community," he said.

McCormick Foundation, a nonprofit provides resources for civics education, has pledged \$3 million to offset any costs in training for poorer school districts.

"The McCormick Foundation will fund the training and the rollout," Cullerton said. "There's private money helping it, but ISBE is creating the overall curriculum."

The McCormick Foundation has an endowment of \$1.57 billion, but Cullerton said should the funding dry up, other nonprofits and companies have expressed interest in backing the initiative. ■

## LAW-RELATED EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC

*Published at least four times per year.*

*To subscribe, visit [www.isba.org](http://www.isba.org)  
or call 217-525-1760*

### OFFICE

Illinois Bar Center  
424 S. Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Phones: 217-525-1760 OR 800-252-8908  
[www.isba.org](http://www.isba.org)

### EDITORS

Hon. Edward J. Schoenbaum  
Pablo A. Eves

### MANAGING EDITOR/ PRODUCTION

Katie Underwood  
[kunderwood@isba.org](mailto:kunderwood@isba.org)

## LAW-RELATED EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC

Hon. Michael J. Chmiel, Chair  
Raquel G. Martinez, Vice Chair  
Zeophus J. Williams, Secretary  
Sarah J. Taylor, Ex-Officio

Jessica A. Baer  
Hon. Rosemary Collins  
Lauren E. DeJong  
Stephen D. Iden  
Marylou L. Kent  
Kateah M. McMasters  
Todd C. Miller  
Thomas Murray

Desiree Anna Shiffler Martin  
Sandra L. Sweeney

Kimberly A. Furr, Staff Liaison  
Hon. Jessica A. O'Brien, Board Liaison

Disclaimer: This newsletter is for subscribers' personal use only; redistribution is prohibited. Copyright Illinois State Bar Association. Statements or expressions of opinion appearing herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Association or Editors, and likewise the publication of any advertisement is not to be construed as an endorsement of the product or service offered unless it is specifically stated in the ad that there is such approval or endorsement.

Articles are prepared as an educational service to members of ISBA. They should not be relied upon as a substitute for individual legal research.

The articles in this newsletter are not intended to be used and may not be relied on for penalty avoidance.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to the Illinois State Bar Association, 424 S. 2nd St., Springfield, IL 62701-1779.

## 2015 ISBA High School Mock Trial Invitational

By Sarah Taylor

The 2015 ISBA High School Mock Trial Invitational was held on March 14 and 15, 2015, at the University of Illinois' College of Law in Champaign, Illinois. Teams representing 42 high schools from across Illinois participated in the event. The winning team was Hinsdale Central High School, which will represent Illinois at the National High School Mock Trials in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The 2015 Invitational was successful due to the dedication and enthusiasm of these

forty-two teams and their coaches, families, and other supporters, and the hard work of the ISBA's Standing Committee on Law-Related Education, Mock Trial Coordinator, Aleksandra Ostojic and the members of the Illinois Trial Team. The Invitational would not have been possible without the many judges, attorneys, law students, undergraduate students, and others who generously volunteered their time, the sponsorship of the ISBA and Illinois LEARN, and the generosity of our

host, the College of Law. The Standing Committee on Law-Related Education appreciates the support and hard work of all of these entities and individuals.

A full list of participating schools, sponsors, and volunteers, information about volunteering, and general information about the Mock Trial Invitational program may be found at: <http://www.isba.org/teachers/mocktrial>. ■

## Model Illinois Government

By Hon. Edward J. Schoenbaum

Model Illinois Government has an online home which is one of the preeminent intercollegiate government simulations in the United States. 2015 was the 37th and by going to their website teachers and students can learn a lot. Check out their Web site and learn a great deal. <http://www.modelillinoisgovernment.org/index.php>.

Each spring semester, students from around the state of Illinois participate in the Model Illinois Government simulation. The 2015 simulation took place at the Capitol Complex in Springfield in February. Nearly 300 students from over 20 colleges and universities converged on the Illinois State Capitol to gain more experiences in a weekend

than in a semester of classes.

MIG Delegates are structured for a legislative simulation and others prepare for oral argument in the Supreme Court competition. Students choose among various roles including: Legislators, lobbyists, journalists, attorneys, justices, budget analysts, as well as many leadership positions within the parties and committees. Within the legislature, students are assigned political parties and districts and placed in committees of their particular interests. The legislators then simulate the legislative processes in the actual committee rooms and chambers of the Capitol building.

The Moot Court competition is held in the chambers that were once the home of the Il-

linois Supreme Court. Teams of attorneys argue before a panel of student justices and legal professionals and are scored on the basis of presentation and knowledge of the case fact. Please direct all questions to the Chief Justice. Find the Fact Pattern for the 2015 simulation on the Web site.

Awards are presented at the end of the simulation and students may also campaign for Executive Board positions (Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, etc.) in order to take a more active role in the organization of the simulation.

I was very fortunate to serve as Chief Justice during the 2014 Model Illinois Government. The students were amazing. ■

## Check out these two ABA Web sites for good ideas to improve your programs

**Be Acknowledged For Your Law Day 2015 Activities.** Showcase the planning and success of your organization's Law Day 2015 programming. The award submission deadline is June 26, 2015. Enter at [www.lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org).

**Students Give Moving Account of Experience in Nation's Capital.** The ABA Division for Public Education recently hosted its 5th annual National Civics & Law Academy in Washington, DC. The Academy provides a diverse group of high school students from throughout the country with a rare opportunity to understand the relationship that law, policies, citizens, and institutions have in shaping our nation. Go to the Web site and watch the video at [www.lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org).



## 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, the great charter of liberty

By MaryLou Lowder Kent

On June 15, 1215, in a field at Runnymede on the banks of the Thames River, King John affixed his seal to the Magna Carta. Confronted by 40 rebellious barons, he consented to their demands in order to avert civil war. Just 10 weeks later, Pope Innocent III nullified the agreement and England plunged into internal conflict. Although the Magna Carta failed to resolve the struggle between King John and his barons, it was reissued several times after his death.

The Magna Carta was written by a group of barons to protect their rights and property against a tyrannical king. It was concerned with many practical matters and specific grievances relevant to the feudal system. The interests of the common man were hardly relevant in the minds of the men who bro-

kered the agreement. Yet two principles expressed in the Magna Carta resonate to this day:

"No freeman shall be taken, imprisoned, disseised, outlawed, banished, or in any way destroyed, nor will We proceed against or prosecute him, except by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land."

"To no one will We sell, to no one will We deny or delay, right or justice."

During the American Revolution, the Magna Carta served to inspire and justify action in the defense of liberty. The colonists believed they were entitled to the same rights as Englishmen, rights guaranteed by the Magna Carta. They embedded those

rights into the laws of their states and into the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The Magna Carta has resonated throughout the centuries and across the globe as no other legal text and has been hailed as one of the most significant documents in English history. It has served as the basis for the principle that no one, including kings and presidents, is above the law and that the right to due process of law belongs to everyone.

The Illinois State Bar Association and its Committee on Law Related Education for the Public encourage elementary schools, junior high schools, high schools and universities to provide students with an opportunity to reflect upon the Magna Carta and the principles of due process of law embodied therein. ■

## Jesse Paul Padilla—Someone you should know

By Todd C. Miller

The mission statement of the L.R.E. Committee speaks to a lawyer's role in society in assisting in enhancing non-lawyers' understanding of our great judicial system. By inference, attorneys are charged with a responsibility to be role models in all their various endeavors. Those attorneys that best meet these expectations should be recognized.

Jesse Padilla is currently employed as in-house counsel for the Illinois Agricultural Association (COUNTRY Financial). He has been practicing law for about 11 years and has been with COUNTRY Financial since 2008.

I first met Jesse in 2011 when he was my mentee through the McLean County Bar Association Lawyer-to-Lawyer Mentoring Program. While he was not a "new lawyer" per se he had a desire to expand his network beyond other in-house counsel.

Jesse is an active participant in the McLean County Bar Association. Since 2013 he has served as Co-Chairman of the Lawyers in the Classroom Committee and has, through that committee, spoken to elementary school-aged children regarding the workings of our legal system, both in Spanish and in English. Currently, in his capacity as co-chair, Jesse



Jesse Paul Padilla

is organizing a pilot project and joint effort between the bar association, Conexiones Latinas and Illinois Wesleyan University to work with bi-lingual students. Jesse is also working on creating a Diversity Committee for the McLean County Bar Association.

Following his involvement in the McLean

County Lawyer-to-Lawyer Mentoring Program, Jesse served as mentor to a Northern Illinois University Freshman through the Learning and Leading Program. The program is co-hosted by COUNTRY Financial and State Farm.

Recently, Jesse graduated from the Multicultural Leadership Program. The program is limited to a class of 26 hand-selected individuals with the drive and desire to serve their respective communities through leadership. The program is an intense professional development curriculum that provides a framework to those with an interest in and potential to step into community leadership roles.

In addition to the foregoing, in the recent past Jesse has also volunteered his time serving as a Council Member for the First United Methodist Church and as Vice President of the Professional Latino/Latina Allstate Network.

Jesse and his son live in McLean County. Those of us who know him respect his professionalism and admire his dedication to the legal community and, more importantly, to the community at large. All of us should be leading by the kind of example set by Jesse Paul Padilla. ■

# Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum celebrates 150th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination, the end of the Civil War and the 10-year anniversary of our museum

By Hon. Edward J. Schoenbaum, Volunteer at Museum

**L**earning through Artifacts and Documents. Imagine how much more meaningful history can be for your students when they can handle reproduction documents and artifacts and view online items from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's unparalleled collection of treasured items used by Abraham Lincoln. Supplement the lessons with suggested classroom activities.

**Museum Scavenger Hunts** may be used by students, families, or adults on focusing on museum content, prior to, during, or as follow-up to a tour. All can be used as a learning tool. Please go to their Web site, <[www.tenyearslincoln.com/](http://www.tenyearslincoln.com/)> and look at six hunts listed under that topic to determine which best suits your group, and research skill level.

## Undying Words

Lincoln 1858-1865 explores Lincoln's changing views through five key speeches. This is a collaboration with the Chicago History Museum and features amazing artifacts and interactive stations. A section focuses on the assassination of our 16th president. It will be here to February 28, 2016.

**Our museum has Gone Digital.** Visitors can access digital content on their mobile devices as they tour the museum to revolutionize the visitor experience.

A fascinating new theater presentation explaining early 19-century origins of "**The Battle Hymn of the Republic**" how Julia Ward Howe was inspired to write the great American anthem associated with Lincoln.

## Summer on the Square

Last July, over 1,700 guests enjoyed the Civil War Musical honoring the spirit of the men and women who fought and lived through our Civil War. This July the theater department will host another spectacular event under the stars.

## Family Events

10th of every month will be Family Day with some type of event/activity/recognition.

## Social Events

June 11th is ladies night out. Enjoy a Strawberry Social with Mary Lincoln and sample many wonderful strawberry delights.

July 16th, come back for It's A Sweet Affair with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln over cake and desserts as they discuss their own love story and the love stories of their friends.

Teachers with children through the museum can provide a meaningful learning experience by preparing yourself and students, the ALPLM Education Department has created teacher resource guides specifically for educators bringing a school group to the ALPLM. View Teacher Resource Guides download Adobe Acrobat Reader if not installed on your computer. Download Adobe Acrobat Reader.

**To Kill and to Heal Teacher Resource Guide** explores philosophical and moral divisions over slavery and the election of Abraham Lincoln.

## Lincoln's Farewell Address Teacher Resource Guide

Civil War Sesquicentennial observance highlights one of Lincoln's most moving speeches. Lesson plans and student activities are based on the president-elect's impromptu farewell to Springfield and move to our nation's capital in 1861. Background information, lesson plans and classroom activities [here](#).

## Museum Experience Teacher Resource Guide filled with pre-visit, on-site and post-visit activities

Learn what to expect on your tour as well as lesson plans and activities to prepare students for an enriching museum experience. This guide contains a museum questionnaire (scavenger hunt) for students to use in the museum during their tour.

**Gettysburg Address Teacher Resources** was created to acknowledge one of Lincoln's greatest speeches. Find lesson plans and classroom activities [here](#).

## Mrs. President: From Martha to Laura Teacher Resource Guide

This guide can facilitate a museum visit or enhance classroom work, includes lesson plans for all grade levels and numerous learning standards. Explore the life of the First Ladies and First Kids through fun art projects, creative writing and meaningful group discussions.

**Mr. Lincoln's Attic** Provides educators with historical background of this exhibit, worksheets, vocabulary all geared to the Illinois Learning Standards. Topics include "Why We Collect" and "Do Objects Talk" which invites students to take on the role of the museum professional in examining artifacts to reveal the stories behind them.

**Women's History Month** contains exciting ideas for bringing Women's History into the classroom.

**Black History Month guide** is filled with information and ideas to bring Black History Month into your classroom. Provides educators with historical background of Black History Month, biographical sketches of African-American History Makers, as well as activities, additional resources and more.

**Christmas at the White House** ideas bringing Christmas at the White House into your classroom. The guide provides educators with historical background to the traditions surrounding the White House Christmas celebration, as well as activities, discussion questions, primary documents, additional resources and more.

## Team of Rivals Teacher Resources

African Americans in Illinois Includes the 1908 Race Riot Online Magazine and Generations of Pride African Americans in IL a Selected Chronology. ■



**ILLINOIS STATE  
BAR ASSOCIATION**

**Now Every Article Is  
the Start of a Discussion**

If you're an ISBA section member, you can comment on articles in the online version of this newsletter

Visit  
**WWW.ISBA.ORG**  
to access the archives.